

SECC Climate Vision



- Facilitate the effective use of climate information and forecasts in areas of agriculture, forestry, and water resource management in the Southeast United States.

SECC Climate Goals

- Better understand and predict climate variability, including extremes, extreme events, and uncertainties, in the Southeast.
- Develop products and services which most effectively communicate pertinent climate information to the end user.

SECC Climate Program Structure

Table 1. Climate Activities

Climate Activity	AU	FSU	UF	UGA	UM	UAH
ARSCO State Climate Office		x		x		x
Agriculture or other Weather Network			x	x		x
Climate Extension Specialist	?	x	x	x	?	
Climate Research		x		x	x	x

More Lessons Learned

- Traditional climate variables not always meaningful
- Return rate low
- Repeat exposure aids understanding
- Users unable to make quick conclusions
- Information needs to be interpreted
- No real entry or starting point



Climate Outlooks

SECC Spring Climate Outlook

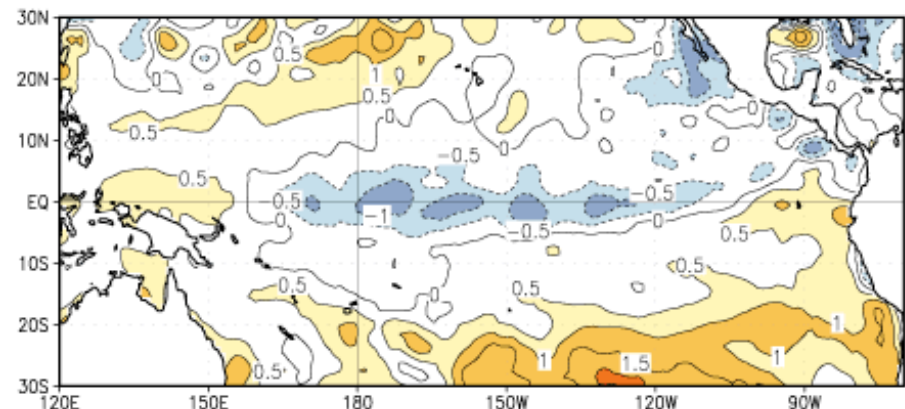
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- Quarterly, focus on next 3-6 months
- Simple language
- “No forecast” does not mean “no information”
- Highlights seasonal issues or threats
- No more that 2 pages

Return of La Niña - After nearly two years of near normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific (Neutral conditions), cooling began to take place in the far eastern Pacific near the coast of South America during October. Initially, the cooler waters were confined to this region, but have since spread westward to the international date line. The pattern of unusually cold sea surface temperatures is now taking the classic La Niña configuration. This La Niña event is unique in the sense that it is highly unusual for a cold (or warm event, for that matter) to form so late in the season. Historically, formation usually begins by late summer or fall, and the event approaches maturity by the early winter months. For more information on conditions in the Pacific Ocean, please refer to our La Niña discussion: [El Niño/La Niña Discussion](#)

Average SST Anomalies

5 FEB – 4 MAR 2006



Sea surface temperature anomalies averaged over the last month (C).

General Climate Outlook for the Spring - The classic La Niña climate pattern in the Southeast U.S. corresponds to Fall, Winter, and Spring seasons that are generally warmer and 20% to 40% drier than normal. La Niña is also known to bring an active wildfire season to Florida and the coastal plains of Alabama and Georgia. Because of the mild nature of La Niña winters, the risk of damaging freezes is reduced.

Moral of the Story

- Summaries or interpretations versus detailed information
- Involvement of customers critical
- Information grows stale quickly, moving to monthly climate outlooks



ANY QUESTIONS?